

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



1.

Children's Mental Wellbeing CLG hosts online mental wellbeing courses on a secure safe platform.

2.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017 and Tulsa Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, Children's Mental Wellbeing CLG have agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

3.

Children's Mental Well-being CLG have adopted and will implement fully and without modification all Child Protection Procedures as set out in the children's first act 2015 as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Children's Mental Well-being CLG is: Michelle O'Brien.

- Children's Mental Wellbeing recognises that child protection and welfare considerations are paramount in all aspects of our program and must be reflected in all of the policies, procedures, practices and activities.
- In its policies, procedures, practices and activities Children's Mental Wellbeing will adhere to the following principles of best practice in relation to child protection and welfare. Children's Mental Wellbeing will:
  - Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance.
  - Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.

- Fully co-operate with the all relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters as they arise.
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect staff and facilitators from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations.
- Develop a practice of openness with each schools personnel and the wider school community and encourage teacher involvement in the delivery of the online programs.
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters as set out under data protection law.

#### 4.

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Children's Mental Wellbeing has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while learning the Children's Mental Wellbeing online program. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and Children's Mental Wellbeing procedures for managing those risks will be provided on request. The following procedures/measures are in place to manage the identified challenges:

1. Children's Mental Wellbeing where necessary will take appropriate action in relation to disciplinary procedures for Children's Mental Wellbeing staff / members in line with the Children's Mental Wellbeing Employment Policy and Child Protection.
2. In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff, and members and their suitability to work with children, Children's Mental Wellbeing adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars.
3. In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training of staff / members in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the Children's first act 2015 Act) Children's Mental Wellbeing:
  - Has provided each member with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement.
  - Ensures all new members are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Encourages member to avail of relevant training.
  - Encourages all members to avail of relevant training.

4. All Children’s Mental Wellbeing members will follow Children’s Mental Wellbeing Policy in line with Children’s First 2015 relation to incident reporting in line with Children's First 2017.
5. Children’s Mental Wellbeing has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.

## 5.

Children’s Mental Wellbeing is committed to the full implementation of this safe guarding statement and all procedures that support and promote the safety and wellbeing of children engaging with the program. A copy of this statement will be made available to all appropriate parties as requested. This statement has been provided to all Children’s Mental Wellbeing CLG members. It is readily accessible to schools on request.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually (September 2023 next) or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by Children’s Mental Wellbeing on September 2020.